



THE CONNECTOR CONNECTION

Issue 18

November 2009 – January 2010

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CONNECTORS ON-SHIFT HOURS

Weekdays:

A-Shift 7 AM – 12 Noon
B-Shift 12 Noon – 5 PM
C-Shift 5 PM – 10 PM

Weekends:

S1-Shift 7 AM – 2:30 PM
S2-Shift 2:30 PM – 10 PM

A Word from Eric & Warren

We can't believe its 2010!! The New Year brings new challenges and new opportunities. There are so many activities that will engage Connectors. Watch your e-mails for all the exciting announcements.

Once again we can't say enough about all of your efforts and dedication to this program.

- Eric Brunyer x4692
- Warren Sprecher x3664

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Holiday Adopt-a-Family

In spite of a second year of economic hardship, the citizens of Mesa showed true Christmas Spirit this year! The volunteer center was overflowing with toys donated to the Annual Adopt-a-Family Program, even after Christmas Day.

Once again, we partnered with Mesa Public Schools to find qualifying families for the program. A total of 77 families were adopted this year, benefiting 300 children.

Thanks to The East Valley Firefighter Charities, Local 2260 for hosting their annual toy drive in conjunction with K-Mart. We want to thank the following: Phi Theta Kappa and Psi Beta from Mesa Community College's Red Mountain Campus, Fountain of the Sun for donating their collected items to our cause. For the second year we were very fortunate to have the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force sponsor a toy drive that not only benefited Mesa Fire but provided a 'Breakfast with Santa' for the children of Sunshine Acres Children's Home. Once again we had the support of Chick-fil-A where they held the 'Adopt a Child' program, at several of their East Valley locations. Thanks to Wal-Mart and Taco Bell for their cash donations. These funds were used to purchase additional items to help round out the donations to the adopted families. Thank you to all of the fire crews and day staff for taking in all of the items at the fire stations and fire department offices and to the Mesa Fire Department Connectors for picking up, sorting through, and delivering thousands of toys throughout the entire program. In addition to toys Connectors took donated food items to Paz de Cristo and United Food Bank to aid those in need during this holiday season. We appreciate the help of Denise Carney and her daughter who sorted and organized the toy donations on a nightly basis, making the gift selection easier for all the adopting families.

Finally, because of the vast amount of donated toys received, we were able to help outside agencies in need such as: Andrea's Closet, Care Partnership, Maricopa Medical Center's Pediatric Unit, East Valley Child Crisis Center, and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

Connector Hired!

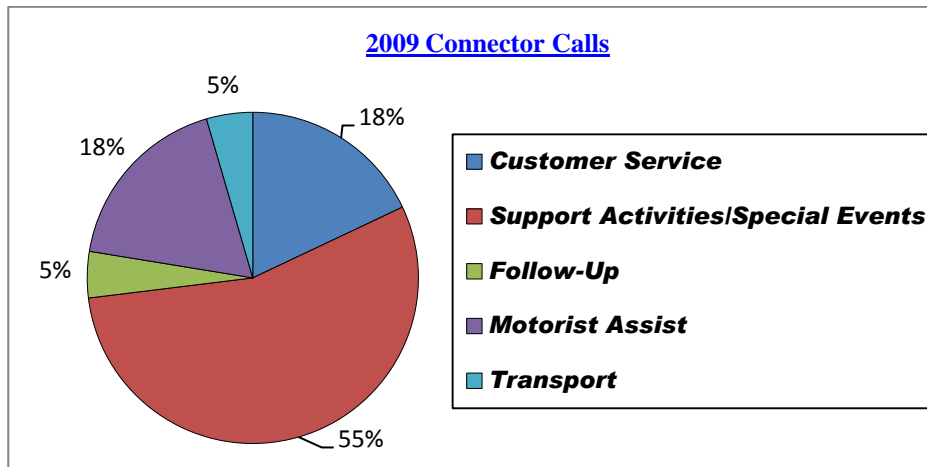
Congratulations to Michael Clesceri on his employment with Ak-Chin Fire Department as a part-time firefighter. Best of luck!!

Dates to Remember

* Walk Across Mesa for Drowning Prevention - Partnering with Cardon Children's Medical Center, the City of Mesa Fire Department and Neighborhood Services, volunteers will help distribute drowning prevention flyers. The goal is to educate as many Mesa community members as possible with important life saving information. Children are welcome as long as they have an adult to walk with them. This event will take place Sat. Mar 27th, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm starting from Fire Station 208 Falcon Field, 4530 E. McKellips Rd. For further information please contact Michele Long @ 480-644-2294.

*The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Disaster Drill is fast approaching. The date for this exciting event is Tuesday, April 20, 2010. There is still time to sign up to be a part of this. Please see Warren or Eric for more information.

*Save the Date - Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is planned for Thursday, April 22, 2010. Look for more information to come!



In 2009 Connectors ran over 3,400 calls. This represents four years in a row that we have surpassed the 3,100 call mark. As shown above, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of these calls were to assist with support activities/special events and assist stranded motorists. A significant increase in volume was in the Support Activities/Special Events, 55% in 2009, up from 43% the previous year. Connectors volunteered a total of 17,277 hours in 2009.

Over 30 Hours Volunteered!

We'd like to recognize those volunteers who have been able to give additional hours over the past three months:

Casey Christensen
Andy Crotty
Trasia Garcia
Mike Kesner
Carlos Marruffo
Tim Murphy
Marc Shumway
Courtney Waters

Matt Cooper
Bobby Farrell
Myles Gennaro
Steven Klimke
Beki Miller
Heather Schwegler
Tony Tricoci
Ben Wehunt

Happy Birthday Connectors!

February 2010:

2/1 - Howard Turley
2/4 - Chris Spade
2/5 - Tawney Aguilar
2/6 - Rebecca Miller
2/11 - Andrew Moore
2/15 - Brian Pemberton
2/18 - Michael Selzam
2/19 - Dustin Hunt
2/21 - Michael Kettle
2/23 - Susan Forst
2/26 - Casey Christensen
2/29 - Craig Carroll

March 2010:

3/2 - Marc Shumway
3/3 - Jacqui Dart
3/4 - Scott McGregor
3/9 - Trace Leggett, Eric Okalski
3/16 - Lawrence Ferguson
3/24 - Allison Fuwa
3/28 - Stephen Foster

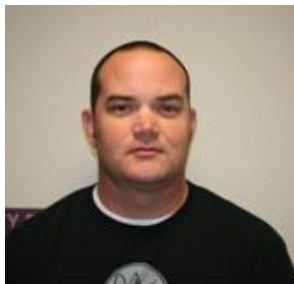
April 2010:

4/11 - Andrew Edwards
4/16 - Warren Gitelman
4/26 - Stuart Krempin
4/30 - Kyle Perkins

Best Birthday Wishes!!!

Welcome New Lead

We'd like to welcome our newest Lead Connector; Chad Towe. Here's a little info on him.



Chad is an AZ native that has spent most of his life in the Mesa/Gilbert area. Chad currently works for the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department as a Warrants Officer and has the wonderful duty of tracking down those who have violated their probation and chose to run. His inspiration comes from Dog the

Bounty Hunter, yes that was a joke! He was also a deputy sheriff for approximately four years even doing a stint as an undercover narcotics detective. Chad has had other various and interesting jobs such as a golf ball diver and a flight attendant, and no, that wasn't a joke. Chad is married with two step-children and is going to school part-time to finish his degree in Administration of Justice. He enjoys SCUBA, reading, movies, traveling and hanging out with his family.

Connectors in Action

January was a busy month for the Connectors. From helping with the Channel 12 Car Seat Event, to the Desert Valley Block Party, to stacking sandbags during the torrential rains, your services didn't go unnoticed. Here are some photos for your review.



Be Prepared!

Recent disasters around the world have prompted several news stories regarding the importance of emergency preparedness and the main reason for writing this article. I am almost certain that each of us have learned over the years that “prior planning prevents poor performance” and “if you fail to plan then plan to fail.” How would it be for us as Connectors to go to assist a customer without the “red bag”? Even though we may not use it on every call, or use it at all for months, it is a critical tool for us to establish ourselves as “on scene and ready for assignment”. Take what you learn on shift home with you and prepare your home for an emergency.

As American's, we have never allowed ourselves to live in fear of the unknown. The possibility of catastrophe, natural or man-made has not hampered our ability to live good full lives. Being part of the Mesa Fire Department, we literally run toward danger while all others run away. Our ability to help those in need however is dependent on our preparation ahead of time. We require both tools and knowledge to help others, but the most important asset we possess is our lives. How can we help others in the face of a disaster if we cannot first save ourselves? Having our own houses in order and prepared for anything will greatly assist us in our efforts to help others in our community.

A “family disaster plan” is a personalized action plan that lets each member of the household know what to do in particular disaster situation and how to be prepared in advance. A *functional* family disaster plan helps alleviate fears about potential disasters, makes actual disaster situations less stressful, and saves precious time in the face of disasters.

I saw an emergency plan successfully executed, in my own family, in a time of struggle. This plan is not just for natural disasters or for total property loss situations. I remember when I was about 12 years old and my parents had to re-shingle the roof of our home or the insurance company would not re-insure the house. My parents did not have the money to do this but they had recently begun building a 3 month food reserve supply. That supply made it possible for us to afford the new roof by preparing meals from the food we already had in reserve.

Technology these days plays a significant role in emergency preparedness. Since Katrina and Rita, two deadly hurricanes that wreaked havoc along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico in the United States, governments around the world have become more sensitive to emergency preparedness. In the case of Mexico and Hurricane Dean, the Mexican government immediately mobilized its resources and was ready when the storm twice crossed the country. After the most recent earthquake disaster in Haiti, technology made it possible for countries around the world to respond in a timely manner and dispatch resources almost immediately. Utilize the technology available to you and become prepared for any size emergency in your home. The internet is an excellent technological resource. I found a few websites that gave step-by-step instructions to help you become prepared in case of an emergency. All of them had the same 3 basic steps: Get a Kit, Make a Plan and Be Informed! Be proactive and make it happen before you wish you would have!

www.justincasearizona.com

www.ready.gov

www.fema.gov

www.mesaaz.gov/emergency

-Casey Christensen, Lead Connector

Welcome New Connectors

In November of 2009 we graduated another class of Connectors. Here they are!



Tawney
Aguilar



Chad
Angle



Joshua
Bradford



Matt
Cooper



Andy
Crotty



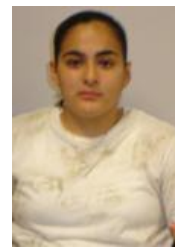
Bobby
Farrell



Vince
Federico



Sue
Forst



Trasia
Garcia



Mike
Kesner



Michael
Kettle



Carlos
Marruffo



Myles
McCarthy



Brandon
McQuiston



Brian
Roche



Craig
Shaver



Beau
Smith



Brad
Turcott



Ben
Wehunt



Brett
Young